



## COVID-19 Update

Dear Girl Scouts of Western Washington Community,

In light of Governor Inslee announcing the "[Healthy Washington- Roadmap to Recovery](#)" earlier this month, we want to provide an update about where our council currently stands with our COVID-19 Member Safety Guidelines. The Healthy Washington- Roadmap to Recovery guidelines allow us some additional flexibility, but still limit gathering sizes, which in turn limit GSWW program operations.

Recently, members of our Executive Team met with the Governor's Office Human Services policy lead to discuss Scouting-specific guidelines and policies so we could explore new program operations for 2021. The fact that our operations are volunteer-based complicates how these guidelines apply to us. After much discussion, we were pleased to learn that the Governor's office has qualified GSWW programs under the following categories: Youth Development, Day and Overnight Camp, Outdoor Recreation and Retail. Each category has varying COVID-19 regulations that allow for modified program operations that are not contingent on the state's phase guidelines. This was great news and allows us to think through new in-person program operations.

Below is a high-level plan of our own "Roadmap to In-Person Girl Scouts." This roadmap will guide our organization to modified in-person programming starting as early as this spring. Here are our next steps:

1. Review:
  - Washington State Youth Development, Camp and Outdoor Recreations guideline and policy changes
  - Girl Scouts of the United States of America Operational Recommendations
  - American Camp Association COVID-19 Guidelines and Restrictions
2. Align:
  - Determine which guideline will be used and followed for all program operations
3. Create:
  - Draft new policies and procedures for all indoor and outdoor programming
  - Gather feedback from member stakeholder groups
4. Publish:

- Update & share GSWW COVID-19 Guidelines with Membership

Given the continued rising rate of COVID-19 infections in our region, plus the above work, ALL in-person programming will continue to be suspended until our new guidelines are ready for publishing. Our goal is to have our new modified program plans in place by early spring. Of course, we remain committed to the health and safety of our members and will continue to provide virtual opportunities as we finalize our new operations plan. Please check out our [GSWW program calendar](#) to see all the virtual program opportunities available for each program level. In the fall, we hosted more than 2,000 Girl Scouts in virtual programs and look forward to offering many more exciting programs this winter and spring!

As always, we want to thank you for your patience and for being such dedicated advocates and participants as we finish coming through this challenging time.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Megan Ferland, CEO

*Girl Scouts of Western Washington*